

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

June 25, 1998

**MINUTES**

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education met in Senate Room B of the General Assembly Building, Richmond, Virginia on Thursday, June 25, 1998 with the following members present:

Mr. Kirk T. Schroder, President  
Senator J. Brandon Bell, Vice President  
Mrs. Jennifer C. Byler  
Mr. Mark C. Christie  
Mrs. Kay C. James

Mrs. Susan Noble  
Senator John W. Russell  
Mrs. Lil Tuttle  
  
Mr. Paul D. Stapleton, Secretary and  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Mr. Schroder, president, presided and called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

***INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE***

Senator Russell gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

Senator Russell made a motion for approval of the minutes of the May 28 meeting. Copies of the minutes had been distributed previously to all members of the Board for review. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Byler and carried unanimously.

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

Mr. Schroder stated that an additional agenda item will be added to the agenda. It was placed at the end of the agenda and listed as *Item I, Federal Charter Schools Funding*. The motion was made by Mrs. Byler, seconded by Mrs. Noble, and carried unanimously for approval of the agenda as amended.

## ***DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES***

Mrs. Tuttle stated that The American Federation of Teachers has a notebook out titled, *ARaising Student Achievement--A Resource Guide for Redesigning Low-Performing Schools.*@ She would like each member to receive a copy.

## ***CONSENT AGENDA***

The motion was made by Mrs. Byler, seconded by Senator Russell, and carried unanimously for approval of the consent agenda.

- # Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Application for Literary Fund Loans
- # Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on Waiting List
- # Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund

## ***Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund Loans***

The Department of Education's recommendation for approval of eight new applications for \$36,200,000 subject to final approval by the Office of the Attorney General, was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

COUNTY, CITY OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Giles County	Macy McClaugherty	4,000,000.00
Martinsville City	Albert Harris Elementary	5,000,000.00
Roanoke County	Addison Middle	5,000,000.00
Wise County	Wise Primary	3,700,000.00
Wise County	Coeburn Primary	3,500,000.00
Wise County	J. W. Adams Elementary	5,000,000.00
Fluvanna County	Central Elementary	5,000,000.00
Roanoke County	Bonsack Area Elementary	5,000,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$36,200,000.00</b>

**Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on Waiting List**

The Department of Education's recommendation is that funds be released for two projects in the amount of \$6,114,086 and that funding for two projects in the amount of \$10,000,000 be deferred and the projects placed on the First Priority Waiting List, was approved by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

COUNTY, CITY, OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Isle of Wight County	Windsor Elementary	5,000,000.00
Russell County	Lebanon Elementary	1,114,086.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,114,086.00</b>

**FIRST PRIORITY WAITING LIST**

COUNTY, CITY, OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Fluvanna County	Central Elementary	5,000,000.00
Roanoke County	Bonsack Area Elementary	5,000,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,000,000.00</b>

**Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund**

The Department of Education's recommendation for approval of the financial report on the status of the Literary Fund as of April 30, 1998, was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one spoke during the public comment period.

**RECOGNITIONS**

**Elementary and Secondary 1998 Principals and Assistant Principals of the Year**

- # Elementary Principal, Alice M. Waddell, Natural Bridge Elementary School,

Natural Bridge, Virginia

- # Elementary Assistant Principal, Janet Zitt, Thoroughgood Elementary School, Virginia Beach, Virginia
- # Secondary School Principal, Larry D. Clark, Halifax County High School, South Boston, Virginia
- # Assistant Principal, Leslie Kaplan, Denbigh High School, Newport News, Virginia

Recognition of the Blue Ribbon Schools

- # George Mason Middle School, Falls Church Public Schools  
Ms. Mary Ellen Shaw, Superintendent  
Dr. Rochelle Friedman, Principal
- # Stonewall Jackson Middle School, Hanover County Public Schools  
Dr. Stewart Roberson, Superintendent  
Dr. Wade Valentino, Principal

**Final Review of Guidelines Developed for Board Approval of Additional Graduation Requirements Requests by Localities**

Mr. Christie made a motion that the Board adopt the *Guidance Document Re: Requests for Additional Graduation Credit Requirements and Requests to Allocate Electives from Local School Boards*. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Byler. The motion carried with a vote of six Ayes@ and two Ano@ votes.

Mr. Christie stated that this is a revised copy of the document that went out for public comment in April. He noted that the provision for establishing the criteria for the vocational education seal has been taken out pursuant to a recent statute that the Board will deal with later.

A recent survey completed by the Virginia Department of Education indicated that currently forty-two local school divisions have additional local credit requirements to obtain the Standard Diploma and thirty-five local school divisions have additional local credit requirements to obtain the Advanced Studies Diploma.

Mr. Christie stated that the Board of Education is not requiring any school division to

have extra credits. The Board is providing the guidance document for school divisions that do have extra credit requirements.

**Final Review of Procedures for Requesting Waivers to the Accrediting Standards**

Mr. Charles Finley presented this topic. There was a lengthy discussion on defining experimental and innovative programs. Mrs. Tuttle suggested the following definition for an innovative program: "An innovative program shall be a program proven by independent evaluations to produce a positive educational effect but does not meet standard operating or procedural requirements."

Mr. Christie made a motion to adopt the document. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Byler.

Mrs. Tuttle amended the motion to change the word "designed" to "shown" in defining an innovative program. Mrs. Tuttle also amended the motion to add the word "positive" to define an experimental program.

The motion, amended twice, carried with a unanimous vote.

**Guidelines for Release from State Regulations in the Matter of Establishing Charter Schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia**

Ms. Yvonne Thayer presented this item. The 1998 General Assembly passed SB 318 and HB 543. Those identical bills amended the *Code of Virginia* by adding in Chapter 13 of Title 22.1 an article numbered 1.2, consisting of sections numbered 22.1-212.15, relating to the establishment of charter schools.

Section 22.1-212.7 requires contracts for charter schools between the charter school applicant and the local school board. The contract shall reflect all agreements regarding the release of the charter school from school division policies. The contract shall also reflect all requests for release of the charter school from state regulations, except for the requirements of the Standards of Quality. The local school board, on behalf of the charter school, shall request such releases from the Board of Education.

The intent is to develop Board of Education guidelines for release from state regulations to assist local school boards and charter school applicants in the development of charter schools. The guidelines will assist local school boards and charter school applicants as they agree on parameters for the operation of charter schools, as well as providing guidance in determining those regulations from which local boards may request consideration for release.

Mr. Christie made a motion to adopt the recommendations. The motion was seconded by Senator Russell and carried unanimously.

### **School Construction Grants**

Mr. Dan Timberlake presented this topic. The 1998 General Assembly passed legislation (Senate Bill 4005) which included a formula for distributing school construction funds under the Virginia Public School Construction Grants Program. The formula recommended by Governor Gilmore and adopted by the General Assembly distributes \$55 million in each year of the 1998-2000 biennium. The methodology first distributes \$200,000 to each school division in each fiscal year as a floor. The balance of each year's appropriation is then distributed on the basis of the composite index and Average Daily Membership of each school division.

There is a local match required to receive these funds. The amount of the match is based on the composite index and is calculated by multiplying each locality's index by its grant amount. School divisions may use these funds for school construction, additions, infrastructures, site acquisition for public school buildings and facilities, and renovations, including the costs of retrofitting or enlarging public school buildings. A school division, which has completed any such project during the previous ten years, may use the grant for debt service payments or a portion thereof. The required match also must be used for these purposes.

The motion to waive first review was made by Senator Russell, seconded by Mrs. Byler and carried unanimously.

Mr. Christie made a motion to adopt the procedures for final review. The motion was seconded by Mrs. James and carried unanimously.

### **Literary Fund Maximum Loan Amounts**

Dan Timberlake presented this topic. The 1998 General Assembly passed legislation that required the Board of Education to increase the maximum amount of a Literary Fund loan from \$5 million to \$7.5 million for a project. Essentially, this statutory provision will supersede current Board regulations that set the maximum amount at \$5.0 million. The maximum indebtedness to the Literary Fund will remain at \$20 million.

Current practice permits school divisions to submit supplemental applications for

additional funds for a project if the original project request was for less than \$5 million. In these cases, the supplemental amount is added to the original application and the project maintains its position on the Waiting List.

Because the upper limit of a project is being increased to \$7.5 million, school divisions will likely request increases to their loan amounts. The Department needs direction from the Board of Education on the procedure for handling these supplemental requests.

Mrs. James made a motion to waive first review, seconded by Mrs. Byler and carried unanimously.

Mr. Christie made a motion to adopt recommendation number two that states: The school division must withdraw their existing application and submit a new one for the revised amount. The new application would be placed at the bottom of the priority Waiting List. The motion was seconded by Senator Bell and carried unanimously.

### **Federal Charter Schools Funding**

Ms. Yvonne Thayer presented this topic. Virginia is eligible to apply for PL 103-382 Public Charter Schools Act FY98 funds since Virginia's legislation permitting charter schools goes into effect July 1, 1998. The U. S. Department of Education will send an application to the VDOE before July 31. The application must be submitted within thirty days (end of August). States receiving grants will be notified in September. Receipt of these funds will forward approximately \$80,000 per year to each charter school meeting the requirements established by the federal and the state government. The money may be used for planning, startup, and implementation costs.

Mr. Christie made a motion to authorize Department of Education to go through with the application process with final granting authority approved by the president and vice president of the Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Noble and carried unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Schroder adjourned the meeting of the Virginia Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education at 11:15 a.m.

### **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE VIRGINIA SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND FOUNDATION**

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education adjourned and the Foundation of the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind convened at 11:35 a.m.

Mr. Schroder conducted business of the Foundation, including election of officers. Mr. Christie, elected President, proceeded with the meeting as noted on the agenda. Mrs. Noble was elected vice president.

The Foundation of the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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President

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Secretary of the Board